

REMARKS

The Examiner's action dated March 9, 2006, has been received, and its contents carefully noted.

It is requested that the objection to the drawings be reconsidered in view of the fact that all of the components recited in the claims, and particularly those recited in the passages quoted in the Action, are clearly illustrated in the drawings. For example, Figure 6 shows the major body 3 with a threaded hole, or bore, 34 to connect the major body to a first counterpart (not shown and not positively recited in the claims), as well as a second counterpart 2.

In order to clarify the relation between those claim recitations and the drawings, the specification has been amended, at pages 14-16, to identify the counterpart that will be threaded into hole 34 as a first counterpart and to identify the counterpart to the numeral, into which the end of stud will be fitted as a second counterpart.

In addition, the specification has been amended, at pages 2-3, to identify the corresponding counterparts of the conventional joint shown in Figure 9.

Correspondingly, the claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is traversed for the reason that the Amendments to the specification now make perfectly clear which elements shown in the application drawings and described in the specification

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Amd. dated May 3, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 9, 2006

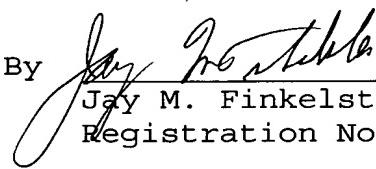
constitute the "first counterpart" and the "second counterpart".

Accordingly, it is requested that the objection to the drawings and the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be reconsidered and withdrawn, that pending claims 1-7, 9 and 11 be allowed and that the application be found in allowable condition.

If the above amendment should not now place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call undersigned counsel to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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